

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 081517 TOSEC 030074
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APPROVED BY PM:LHGELB

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TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 081517 TOSEC 030074

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG

SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION; TALKING POINTS FOR CONGRES-
SIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON ERW

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE DRAFT TALKING POINTS, SUBJECT TO YOUR
APPROVAL, WHICH WOULD BE USED WITH SELECTED MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS. WE WILL IN ADDITION BE SENDING BACKUP QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS FOR YOUR REVIEW.

BEGIN TEXT

2. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT HE HAS
DECIDED AGAINST PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEADS,
AND WILL BE ANNOUNCING THIS DECISION (TIMING TO BE DECIDED.)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 081517 TOSEC 030074

3. HE HAS TAKEN THIS DECISION AFTER A MOST CAREFUL AND
CONTINUING REVIEW OF ALL THE RELEVANT FACTORS. IT IS HIS
CONCLUSION THAT NATO CAN MEET THE INCREASING SOVIET MILI-
TARY THREAT IN EUROPE -- ESPECIALLY IN TANKS - AS EFFECTIVELY
THROUGH MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT IN CONVENTIONAL AND
THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES.

4. IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED THAT HIS DECISION WILL BEST PRESERVE THE PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED IN ALL ALLIED COUNTRIES FOR THE OVERALL EFFORT NEEDED TO INCREASE

ALLIED DEFENSES. WHAT VALUE ERW WOULD HAVE HAD CANNOT COMPARE WITH THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THAT PUBLIC SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY WHEN ALTERNATIVE MEANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEETING NATO'S DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE NEEDS.

5. THIS DECISION WAS THUS MADE ON THE MERITS OF THE ISSUE AS STATED AND IT WAS NOT RELATED TO THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN -- WHICH, IF ANYTHING, WAS AN ARGUMENT FOR GOING FORWARD.

6. BRACKET WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE IN VARIOUS ARMS CONTROL FORUMS CALLING UPON THE SOVIET UNION TO SHOW A COMMITMENT TO INCREASING SECURITY AND REDUCING TENSIONS, BY EXERCISING RESTRAINT IN ITS MILITARY PROGRAMS AND BY TAKING CONCRETE STEPS IN ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING EUROPE. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, TYING THIS US STEP ON ERW TO ANY SPECIFIC SOVIET RESPONSE, NOR WILL THE NON-PRODUCTION DECISION BE REASSESSED. BRACKET (SUBJECT TO RESPONSE TO SECRETARY BROWN'S RECOMMENDATION.)

7. WE HAVE CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE AND CLOSE CONSULTATIONS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 081517 TOSEC 030074

WITH OUR ALLIES OVER MANY MONTHS. THE ALLIES HAVE SUPPORTED US THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS. HOWEVER, THE DECISION ON PRODUCTION OF ER WARHEADS WAS ALWAYS FOR THE US TO MAKE.

8. WE ARE NOW INFORMING THE ALLIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

9. IF ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC MILITARY PROGRAMS WE HAVE IN MIND TO COMPENSATE FOR NON-PRODUCTION OF ERW, WE WOULD INDICATE THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND THEATER NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION. ON THE CONVENTIONAL SIDE, THIS WOULD FOCUS PRIMARILY ON NEW GENERATIONS OF PRECISION-GUIDED ANTI-TANK MUNITIONS, AIR-TO-GROUND MUNITIONS, AND THE PRE-POSITIONING OF INCREASED MILITARY STOCKS IN EUROPE. ON THE THEATER NUCLEAR SIDE, WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE NATO ALLIES MODERNIZATION ACROSS THE BOARD.

10. WE WILL BE GLAD TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFICS IN A BRIEFING. END TEXT

11. THIS TEXT AND DRAFT TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS
ANNOUNCEMENT (SEPTTEL) ARE BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSMITTED
TO SECRETARY BROWN AND DAVID AARON FOR REVIEW AND WE WILL
IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATE THEIR COMMENTS TO YOU.
COOPER

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NNN

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